

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 01805 021312Z

ACTION SNM-02

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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8165

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 1805

STADIS//////////

LIMDIS

FOR SENIOR ADVISOR S/NM FROM NICHOLSON

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJ: NARCOTICS PROGRAM AFGHANISTAN - PAKSITAN

1. ATTEMPTING ARRIVE BEFORE YOUR DEPARTURE BUT TRAVEL PLANS HAVE BEEN DISRUPTED. FOLLOWING SUMMARY MY PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS CAN BE SUPPLMENETED BY OTHER TEAM MEMBERS ALREADY RETURNED. IN SHORT TWO GOVERNMENTS NOT MOVING ON POPPY CONTROL OR REDUCTION AND WE HAVE LITTLE DIRECT LEVERAGE TO MOVE THEM.

2. AFGHANISTAN: IT IS UNLIKELY GOA WILL MOVE ON ERADICATION EVEN IN SECONDARY PRODUCTION AREAS THIS CROP YEAR NOR NEXT. IT OBVIOUSLY FEELS IT HAS NO OPIUM PROBLEM HAS NOT PRESSURE FROM IRAN OR OTHER VICTIM COUNTRIES AND SALVES WHAT CONSCIENCE IT DIES HAVE WITH UNFDAC PROJECT. WE HAVE CLEARLY PLACED BALL ON THEIR COURT RE ASSISTANCE ON ERADICATION BUT I BELEIVE WE SHOULD SEE SOME POSITIVE STEPS TO STOP PRODUCTION IN SECONDARY AREAS AS PRE-CONDITION TO ANY SIZEABLE AID. I DOUBT THAT WE WLL SEE ANY SUCH ACTION SHORT OF DIRECT REPRESENTATIIONS TO DAOUD BY IRAN, BY W. EUROPEAN NATIONS, AND USG. IT IS GENERALLY BELIEVED PRESIDENT HAS PERSONAL COMMITMENT AND MIGHT, IF
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SUFFICEINTLY PRESSURED, GET HIS PEOPLE OFF THEIR DUFFS. WHETHER HE WILL DO SO GIVEN EVENTS IN PAKISTAN AND INDIA IS BEYOND MY COMPETENCE TO ESTIMATE.

3. PAKISTAN: WE HAVE AGREED WITH PNCB TO A COURSE OF ACTION WHICH SHOULD, OVER NEXT TWO YEARS, GREATLY STRENGTHEN ITS ENFOCEMENT CAPABLITY AT RELATIVELY LOW COST TO US

PROBABLY LESS THAT \$500,000. THE COLOSSAL RIGIDITY EFFORT.

4. I FOUND GREATER RECOGNITION IN PAKISTAN OF NEED TO GET ON WITH CROP CONTROL I.E.; SURVEY OF PRODUCTION, REFORM OF VENDOR SYSTEM, TIGHTER LICENSING AND POPPY DESTRUCTION. IT IS POSSIBLE HOWEVER THIS RECOGNITION COMES EASIER WITH KNOWLEDGE POLITICAL SITUATION MAKES ACTION IMPOSSIBLE.

5. UNFADAC BUNEEER PROJECT HAS GREAT POTENTIAL BUT BARRING A MIRACLE IN GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR IT --OR UNFADAC DOING ENTIRE THING --IT WILL MOST SURELY COLLAPSE BY END YEAR. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD ABANDON SWABI PROJECT CONCEPT AND CONCENTRATE ON SMALL PROJECTS TO IMPROVE MARKET ABILITY OF ALTERNATE CROPS IN POPPY AREAS. EMBASSY ISLAMABAD CONCURS THIS APPROACH.

6. POPPY PRODUCTION BOTH COUNTRIES LOOKS VERY GOOD THIS YEAR BUT IT IS HARD TO SAY HOW GOOD GIVEN LACK OF BASE. DEA/EMBASSY ANALYSIS WILL GIVE US SOME CLUES BUT MUCH NEEDS TO BE DONE BEFORE WE HAVE ADEQUATE KNOWLEDGE OF ECONOMICS OF CLOSED SYSTEM OPERATING IN SOUTH ASIA. THIS MUST BE HIGH PRIORITY FOR NEXT YEAR WITH GOVERNMENTS TAKING LEAD IF POSSIBLE BUT IF NECESSARY MAKING CONCERTED EFFORTS USING OUR OWN RESOURCES.

7. WILL DISCUSS IN GREATER DETAIL ALONG WITH MY VIEWS FOR TACTICS ON MY RETURN.WILL ADVISE ETA WHEN FIRM.
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